

# Prevalence Rate and Etiology of Drug Abuse among Preparatory and High School Students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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## Abstract

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The study examines the etiology and prevalence of drug abuse among preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa. The method employed was mixed method, i.e., quantitative and qualitative. The research was conducted on a target population of 814 students from 8 preparatory and high schools with prior exposure to such drugs as Khat, tobacco and alcohol. The subjects were chosen based on simple random sampling from grades 9–12 and were requested to give information as to their experience towards the mentioned drugs consensually. Among other things, the findings suggested that female students to be the biggest abusers of alcoholic drinks while the male ones outnumber female students in the use of multiple drugs. Furthermore, it was found out that such factors as curiosity and company of friends attracting high school students toward drug abuse. Based on a thorough assessment of the findings in the present research, the investigator is of the opinion that: Better management within preparatory and high schools, familiarising students with the dangers of drug abuse and restriction on the latter's access to drug vending business and/or drug-friendly atmosphere to be instrumental in curbing drug abuse among preparatory and high school students and the prevalence thereof.

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## Background

To begin with, adolescents constitute virtually a sizable number of populations in all societies across the world. This

reality becomes more noticeable in developing countries where more than 50 per cent of the societal segment is represented by teenagers under 20. In

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majority of cases the adolescents inhabiting this part of the world are shown to be living in a rapidly changing atmosphere faced with many pressures. In more than a few instances, the adolescent often bother to win the challenges of life arising from lack of employment opportunities and change in the structure of the family; The increasingly volatile atmosphere surrounding the societal interaction where the adolescents are living remains to be more dynamic in urban areas than rural areas. On the other hand the ever changing aspects of routine life will make parents feel lost in the new environment creating yet another problem debilitating their potential to take care of their youngsters. Given this confusing scenario, it is wise to suggest the need for outsiders' involvement through institutionally set-up scheme of assistance to parents and their children integrate them into different approach of life.

According to Scarborough (1981) the adolescence years are the best decades of life and no age is so responsive to the entire best and wisest adult endeavor. So much so, high school is the place where the adolescents' personality takes refined shape and gets knowledgeable and there on depends his/her whole future career. Therefore, it should be considered as an important moral barometer of society in connection with the drug addiction aspects of adolescent in various fields of life. However, almost all indicators suggest that the problem will only increase when adolescents, in their struggle for identity cannot tolerate family interference, or environmental pressure.

It is an observable fact, that misuse of drugs by high school students' long remains to be source of serious concern for parents. In this regard, one can safely argue that the problem of drug - addiction among students, to be an enduring problem facing parent in Addis Ababa. The fact that the existing rapid social change trend of drug abuse and the result of high level of student addiction for drugs justifying critical parental concern be that as it may, so far there is no concrete reason as such explaining why student feel enthusiastic towards experiencing drugs. Nonetheless, curiosity, companionship, pleasure and bad treatment are considered to be the major causes. On account of overwhelming sense of isolation, for example, students may turn to drugs. Usually this feeling of isolation is featured by a compelling inner belief which convinces one's value to be a distorted one. In this regard, the salient drug inducing familial personality set-up is, often, characterised by a weak father, over protective, over - indulgent or dominant mother. Similarly, recurrent parent - child conflicts and hostilities arising from inconsistent standards for children's behaviour may also entail exposure to addiction. Such confused relationship and the facing of unrealistic upbringing goals by the child will cause the latter for resorting to drugs as remedial way out the student to seek refuge on drugs.

Accordingly, the youngster perceives experiencing drugs as a sole option to escape from the turbulence of today's dynamic world where they feel insecure and confused. To put it in other words, they consider drug-use as working solution to cop with the routine problem and pressures from every day life which they are unable to address with normal condition. In the light of this, some high school student's experiment with drugs driven by instinctive adolescents desire to face dangerous life style. Here, the very natural tendencies exhibited in adolescent stage will make the young man to decide trying "the forbidden fruits". There is no good reason to misuse drugs, but in a world where pills and other drugs are available for the relief of many ills, teenage experimentation with drugs is understandable, though not justifiable.

Unlike other medicinal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and khat are proved to be habit forming and addictive drugs. While first time exposure of students to these drugs will not result in dependency, continued use of the drugs will gradually make them dependent to it. The bottom line here is that all experimentation on such additive drugs should be regarded as risky for the students, in most cases; it leads them to psychological dependence and even to addiction.

This study analyses data collected from over 814 students of grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 from 8 high schools. In an attempt to determine the prevalence rate and etiology of alcohol, tobacco and khat use among preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

### **Statements of the problem**

There exist difference in prevalence rate and etiology of drug abuse among preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **Methodology of the Study**

#### **POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

The population of this study was grade 9 – 12 government preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa. This effectively means, all the students of the preparatory and high schools. Out of the ten Administrative sub cities of Addis Ababa, seven sub cities were made the subject of this study. Thus, Gulele, Arada, Nifas silk, Lafto, Kirikos, Yeka and Bole were selected by simple random sampling method, using lottery method. The majority of high schools in the entire ten sub cities share a more or less similar feature in management system and infrastructural facilities. In the light of this, a total of eight preparatory and high schools were selected on purposive sampling. According to the information obtained from each schools a total of 77 junior high schools were found to be serving as feeder schools for the 8 selected schools. The data were collected from grade 9 – 12 preparatory and high school students on availability and convenience basis. The factors that determined the selection of schools were availability of contact persons and willingness of the approached students to fill out the questionnaires. Eight hundred fifty questionnaires were dispatched by the researcher. Eight hundred fourteen of them were returned out of which 436 (53.55%) are male students while the remaining

378 (46.43%) are females. (36 of the questionnaires which were not filled properly are rejected). The researcher himself administered the questionnaire in each school and section, taking enough time to collect data from the respondents based on the informant consent.

The following table presents the final picture of the respondents

Preparatory and High Schools	Respondents			
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Medhane Alem-P			52	50
Menlike II-P			51	52
Shimeles Habte-H	51	50		
Genbot 20-H	50	51		
Abeyote Kires-P		52	50	
Misrak Atekaly-H	52	51		
Black Line-H	50		51	
Bole-P			51	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>202</b>

P – Preparatory H–High School

### Validation and Reliability of instrument

Content validation was done using three judges. Modifications on wording and improvements in questioning and sampling of contents were made. The correlation between the two administrations of the questioners was found to be 0.83. This r coefficient was found to be significant at 0.01 levels.

### Instrument of data collection

This study was conducted using two types of data collection tools which were considered relevant in securing the information required for the study. The major instruments used in this study were: questionnaire and focus group discussion. The questionnaire is

composed of items representing issues related to the basic questions to be addressed by the study. The focus group discussions are meant to get reply on questions useful to strengthen and cross-check the responses made by the respondents for each items in the questionnaire.

### Data Analysis

The data collected through questionnaire has been coded and some of the questionnaires which were not filled properly are rejected. The questionnaire items are tallied and tabulated in tables in accordance with the related issues and prepared for the analysis of data. The data collected through questionnaire were computed using percentage; on the other hand, the data collected through the focus group discussions were analysed using qualitative method of analysis.

### I. Age and sex wise distribution

No.	Characteristics	Respondents	
		F	%
1.	Age level		
	•Below 15 years	25	3.07
	•15-16 years	367	45.09
	•17-18 years	339	41.64
	•18 years and above 83	10.20	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>
2.	Male and Female		
	•Male	436	53.56
	•Female	378	46.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

The adolescence is a period in which individual faces new problem resulting from the physical and psychological changes. It is evident from research work that the problem faced by high school students (15-18 years) differ not

so in type, but only on the emphasis the adolescents places on problem change as the individual grows older (Reddy, 1966, Hurlock, 1967) During the early adolescent years the problem center around physical appearance, health and physical development, school work, relation ships with members of their families teachers and peers of both sexes the choice of vocation, money, personal adjustment, morals and sex... (Amatora, 1957, Meissner1961, Reddy, 1966, Sidana1977, Goswami, 1980, Gupta, 1981, and Sharma 1988) —

In the context of the data presented above, it can be asserted that the propensity to drug-use portray noticeable variation among adolescents on grounds of determinants as age range and gender. Accordingly, the figure from the above table shows that drug-use among high school students being the highest during early and mid adolescent period but, gradually declining as they grow older. While the pre-adolescent and post-adolescent period is shown to be a time wherein the young persons are becoming highly disinterested to resort to drug-use. On the other hand, gender wise, the trend of drug-use proliferating within the male high school student community much higher than their female counter parts. From, this information, we can learn that preparatory and high school students in their pre and early adolescents age (15-17) are more prone to drug socio-economic and health hazards than those

close to post adolescent period. Besides this, given the double digit excess in the percentage of male drug-abusing students from the drug-related problems remain to be existential challenges for the well being and academic success of the male student community.

In view of this, awareness campaign on the adverse impacts of drug abuse with special emphasis on the needs of male pre and early adolescent period should be given focus by the preparatory and high school management.

## II. Types of drugs used

No.	Drugs	Respondents					
		Male		Female		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	Female
1.	Alcohol	161	19.77	186	22.85	349	42.87
2.	Tobacco	142	17.44	119	14.62	261	32.06
3.	Khat	133	16.33	73	8.96	204	25.06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.54</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

The data depicted in the above table shows unevenness in the prevalence of drug abuse culture as far as gender is concerned. In view of this, the data reveals that females being the largest numbers of alcohol users while the male ones out numbers in the other two drug substances i.e., khat and tobacco. As to the major deriving force pushing them to focus on the use of a particular drug substance much higher than the other, the female and male respondents have a different story to tell. For example, most respondents in the female focus group attached the relatively high degree of alcohol abuse to the tradition of local liquor in the house hold unit.

According to their assessment the preparation of such local drinks as "Tella" and "Areki" in the family home and their frequent involvement in the process of its preparation has familiarised them with alcoholic drinks. Furthermore, they noted that the corresponding consumption by family members led them to take alcohol drinking as a normal hobby. On the other hand, the female respondents have more or less reached a consensus in claiming cultural attitude as the rationale behind low level of tobacco and khat use. In pretty large number of families khat-chewing by females in general is considered as a taboo.

As to the male one's, seeking for pleasurable experience, peer influence and family background are cited as the major reasons determining the relatively higher tendency to practice on some drug substances than the other. Within this context, the male focus group, stressed that the use of khat and tobacco are considered as the men's domain on all of the mentioned accounts of male drug abuse determinants. In this regard, most focus group members claimed that the inclination to use khat and tobacco by male members of a drug-abusing family in the majority of cases being the single most important reason behind male student tendency towards these drugs. Some of the focus group members on the other hand, underscored pleasure as the other reason leading male students to concentrate on khat and tobacco.

### III. Multiplicity of Drug-use

No of drugs used	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	Female
One Drug	236	28.99	237	29.12	473	58.10
Two Drugs	130	15.97	98	12.03	230	28.26
Three Drugs	70	8.59	41	5.28	111	13.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.44</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Multiplicity of Drugs

The data in the table is a tangible prove to show that the prevalence of drug abuse among preparatory and high school students has reached a worrying level. On top of this, it also indicates that the level of student drug abuse is widening its scope due to multiple drug-use. Sadly, however such alarming rate of drug abuse culture surfaces on the face of the ever increasing degree of drug related health risks.

In fact, the problem arising from drug-use is getting dramatic level of public awareness in recent years. It has now become a rather serious clinical and social problem than ever before. No other area during the past decade was a cause of generation gap between some groups of adults and some groups of young people as wider than with respect to the attitude towards drug-use.

Nonetheless, the trend currently shows the existence of overwhelming degree of social miss conception as to the impact of drug-addiction. In particular, the widely accepted belief taking drugs as auxiliaries in coping with recurrent psychology stress in modern day living contributed for people's perception on the repercussion of drug. Mills and Noyes (1984) studied survey data collected in the period 1978-1981, examining prior

and current drug-use. They examined the sequential and cumulative nature of drug-use in students and found a stable sequential and cumulative hierarchy of drug-use in all grades.

Thus, with regards to the extent of concentrating on a particular drug-use, alcohol drinking is the top priority followed by smoking and khat chewing respectively. The mentioned level of priority accorded to three drugs is the common feature representing the tendency of both male and female abusers.

There exists a general consensus concerning the problem of drug abuse as a notable societal menace; the fact remains to witness that not all students are equally vulnerable to the problem. This is due to the reasons that drug abuse is affected by large number of determinants and due to cultural influence such as familial factors, company of friends, curiosity, bad treatment and search for pleasure. At this juncture it is important to underscore the fact that drug habit of the student generation has complex reasons and motivation bringing about the ultimate deviant behaviour which needs to be explored. Some of the important variables are psychopathical personality factors characterised by anxiety, depression mania and panic.

#### IV. Role of family in increasing drugs use

Role of family in drug use	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Family members drug-use	168	20.63	137	16.83	305	37.46
Lack of affection	130	15.97	111	13.63	241	29.60
Lack of control	138	16.95	130	15.97	268	32.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above data, it is clear that family background plays a pivotal role in increasing the culture of drug abuse among high school students. In this context, the experience of drug-use by family members is shown to be the biggest influential factor as it exposes high school students to drug-friendly atmosphere right from their early childhood unlike lack of affection and lack of control. It is very difficult to reverse the effects of family member drug-use as it accustoms the child with the drug both emotionally and physically (e.g. as passive smokers). This explains why, lack of affection and control took a subsequent rank as far as increasing drug abuse is concerned. To put it simply, family members' drug-use can be considered as a pull factor for drug abuse while the rest two constitute a push factor. When we say a pull factor, the fact that a family member/members repeated use of such drug substances as alcohol, tobacco and khat will convince the young student to believe that experiencing the said drugs to be a normal leisure time experience or a valuable stress coping mechanism. On the other hand, lack of affection and control is more of a push factor because they are merely conditions which create dissatisfaction in family life and ultimate loss of self confidence or fulfillment. Thus, in order to get rescue from the organising pain of this uncomfortable feelings; the high school student may opt for taking a refugee in the euphoric effect of the drugs. Needless to say, the company of the dissatisfied ill-treated (in case of lack of control with drug-addicted peers or accessibility to drug-friendly atmosphere exacerbates the problem. Judging by the numbers;

the effects of the three familial factors (i.e., family members drug-use, lack of affection and lack of control) in increasing the trend of high school student drug abuse is bigger in males. This may be attached to a variety of factors which among them relate to the relative dominance of men family members in the usage of drugs, the higher level of masculine emotionality and the high peer influence among male students. Blum and associates (1972) studied the family structure and found that drug using students came from families that put little emphasis on child rearing practices and structured intra-familial relationships. Family influences those presented by peers, religion, and school as the major determinant of drug abuse.

In the end, it can be said that, while the effects of lack of affection and control cannot be underestimated, it seems crucial to underscore the much serious impacts of family members drug-use as it entrenches hardly reversible perception in the minds of the young one which considers drug-use as priceless input to escape from boredom and tension.

#### V. Role of video houses

Role of Video	Male		Female	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Positive Impact	26	3.19	98	12.04
Negative Impact	323	39.68	215	26.41
No Impact	87	10.68	65	7.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>45.43</b>

Despite its indirect impact, the role of video houses as negative input in the fight against student drug abuse can not be undermined. As such the

contribution of video houses towards youth drug-abuse and in particular high school student drug addiction is characterised by their catalyst effect this is to mean that; the drug-friendly atmosphere present in most video-houses serve as one of the notable hot spots breeding in generation of young student-addicts. The very fact that most video houses are house hold business operating in a destitute urban social fabric made them liable to face the ill-effects of poverty like drug-addiction. In fact, for anyone keen enough to realise the settings of most video-houses, a couple of round city tours enable him/her to discover that a pretty good number of them are situated in standby towns located in the various corner of the city. The chronic impoverishment reigning supreme in the localities of most video houses, in turn, helped in making the majority of their clients to be those indifferent to object drug addiction. To put it in other words, either they themselves use drugs or are not in a position to consider drug-addiction something reprehensible. On the other hand, due to the high level of financial constraints affecting their household, the video house owners do not let go their clients complaining about drug-use. Furthermore, according to some focus group members, the coincidence in the timing of khat chewing ceremonies and movie episodes within video-houses have contributed for the use of video-house for khat chewing and smoking. Movie time in both video -house and khat-chewing ceremonies are, mostly held in the afternoon.

On the other hand, on the part of the khat-chewing student; he considers



much preferable to chew khat shrubs chopped and kept in his pocket or in small plastic bags while watching movies in a rather modestly charging video houses than doing the same in other places. This in turn, has gradually awakened the video – house owners to cater such addictive drugs as tobacco and khat for their movie clients side by side to their main business. Apart from the settings of video houses and drug abuse prone clients; the very content of the movies frequently watched in video houses has greatly contributed for making video houses to be a negative input in student drug abuse. In line with this, the attempt to associate the stylish usage of such drugs as alcohol and tobacco with flamboyant stage persona of most actors remains to be yet another scenario pushing young movie goers into the world of drug-addiction. Finally, the male student respondents who perceive video houses to have negative impact in the relatively higher frequency of their visit to video houses compared to their female counter parts.

#### VI. Role of Khat House vis-a-vis Drug Addict

Role of Khat House	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Positive Impact	27	3.31	21	2.58	48	5.89
Negative Impact	391	48.03	341	41.89	732	89.92
No Impact	18	2.21	16	1.96	34	4.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

Unlike video houses, discussed in the preceding section, the negative impact of khat houses is rather spectacular in that they are meant for vending and catering for the use of one of the common

addictive drug khat. Accordingly khat houses represent an indispensable cite for youth drug abuse as they offer varying degrees (in terms of comfort) of khat chewing ceremonies together with such other drug as tobacco. In this respect khat houses are known to be the most favored destination of khat-chewing and tobacco smoking high school students who wish to enjoy the drugs in a relative ease and freedom. First of all khat houses offer a conducive atmosphere for khat-chewing students and smokers to use the drugs without suffering a reprimand from their parents or peoples objecting to their habit. Secondly, khat houses allow the drug abusing students to chew khat and smoke cigarettes sharing their thoughts with peer groups or other like-minded persons. In another context, the company of non-abusers with students regularly visiting khat houses arguably exposes the latter to experiencing khat chewing and the consumption of related drugs. Needless to say, the non-abusers frequent appearance to khat-houses with their khat-chewing school mates would gradually-acustom them to the world of khat-chewing and cigarette smoking. At the end the non chewers may ultimately turn out to be full fledged abusers of the two drug-substances i.e., khat and tobacco as of right.

#### VII. The Role of liquor House

Role of Liquor House	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Positive Impact	79	9.70	84	10.32	163	20.02
Negative Impact	296	36.36	219	26.90	515	63.26
No Impact	61	7.49	75	9.21	136	16.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

As in the case of video and khat houses, discussed in the preceding sections the role of liquor houses is something of interest for any researcher poised to find out the prevalence of youth drug addiction. In fact, a careful consideration on the impacts of liquor houses is a focal point of studies in high school student drug-addiction. First of all, the very fact that liquor and alcoholic drinks in general being drug substances suffice to explain why impacts of liquor houses need to be assessed. The second reason may be the up-bringing of most high school students within a society cemented with a tradition where alcoholic drink is considered as an accepted hobby for uncommon to see local liquors (e.g. Tej and Tella) as well as imported ones being the most favoured refreshment inputs in holiday events and other ceremonies. In effect, the wide availability of one or the other forms of alcoholic drinks in the family abode has paved the way for high school students' exposure to the same from their early childhood concerning the effect of liquor houses in high school student drug abuse trend; their impact is shown to be as complex as the very drug related problems themselves. This holds true as liquor houses provide drugs to be taken together with other drugs.

#### VIII. Prior knowledge about effect of drugs

Prior Knowledge	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	104	12.77	98	12.04	202	4.81
No	332	40.78	280	34.39	612	5.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>48.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

In the above table 332 (40.78%) of the respondents claiming to have no prior knowledge about effects of drug-use. This proves that ignorance on the danger of drug-use being one of the most important reasons behind increasing trend of drug abuse amongst high school students. Yet, the data reveals that, the impact of lack of prior knowledge as to the awareness of effects of drug is influencing a large proportion of male students to drug-related health and socio-economic risks than that of their female students. On the contrary, it is shown that knowledge on the prior effects of drug-use being identified for both genders and too abysmal to deter the prevalence of drug abuse both among male and female students.

Given this worrisome trend, awareness campaign on the evils of drug-use for youngsters fight from their formative years is crucial. In particular, sensitising students or young ones should be considered matter of prior concern for teachers and parents alike. Moreover, a realistic approach capable of creating a feeling of distaste for the habit of drug-use on the minds of youngster shall be worked out. For instance, the parent's of teacher's commitments to show the virtue of drug-free life style is more fruitful than a mere advice on the problems of drug-use. This includes avoiding the use of any drugs in and around household units/school premises coupled with bearing a neat personality, professional integrity and responsibility to take care of family matters.

### IX. Reason for up ward Trend

Reasons	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Company of friends	112	13.76	192	23.59	304	37.34
Curiosity	206	25.30	121	14.86	327	40.17
Bad Treatment	39	4.79	21	2.58	60	7.37
For Pleasure	79	9.70	44	5.40	123	15.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

The place of curiosity and company of friends as the biggest reason for male and female drug abuse respectively suggests that Gender plays a crucial role in determining the level of influence from a particular factor affecting the role of drug abuse. As to the male ones the fact that the use of most drugs is usually, the men's domain have greatly contributed for the male student's curiosity to experience and discover the effects of drugs more than their female counter parts. Moreover, the portraying of the drug life, often with, a strong, stylish and care free figure by advertisements or societal attitude has made a significant contribution for male students. More often than not, the female student may feel rather free to use drugs when he/she stays with peer group who are not serious about objecting drugs. In other cases peer groups may pressure the female student to use drugs through various forms of manipulation. Thus, for example during times of party and trip making the female student may be compelled to use various drugs like alcohol and tobacco in order to avoid disdain or harassment from his/her friends using the drugs in the party. Bad treatment and longing for pleasure; seems to be less influential in increasing

the trend of drug abuse as they enable the drug using student to realise the pros and cons of drug abuse. Hence, a student whose motivation to drug-use is driven by the desire for pleasurable experience or to avoid the emotional pain from bad treatment soon understands that the harmful curiosity is the foremost influential factor for upward trend of high school drug abuse. Moreover, the adolescent stage of human development is uniquely characterised by the desire to taste or experience new objects and/or phenomena. Thus unlike other people, high school students most of whom are adolescents often show a high tendency to practice drugs merely out of inner feeling to realise the actual effects of drug through tasting the same. Here, the crucial point to consider is that, curiosity's role is considered as push factor for young student addiction often in case of first-hand exposure to drug-use.

### X. Reason for Down Ward trends

Items	Respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Better School Management	225	27.64	193	23.71	418	51.35
High cost of drugs	114	14.00	102	12.53	216	26.53
Awareness	97	11.91	83	10.19	180	22.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>53.55</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100</b>

The fact that better school management is the number one reason for downward trend of drug abuse reflects that appropriate supervision in school administration is the ideal option to curb students' use of drugs. The relatively lower level of importance for high cost of drugs and awareness as reason for

downward trend suggests that student's motive to use drugs will be seldom altered by indirect pressures. From these finding, one can conclude that an overt act with consequences on students' violation or applicable rules of ethics by the management is much fruitful to distance the students from drug abuse than crude forms of pressure (i.e., cost of drugs) or awareness. To elaborate it further; compared to financial constraints and awareness, better school management is functional in that it is characterised by a regulatory frame work whereby the student faces sanction from the school management when he/she contravene the agreed upon ethical rules. On the other hand, high-cost of drugs and awareness are relatively less helpful to deter students from drug abuse since their fruitfulness or otherwise is highly dependent on the financial capacity of the student in question or his readiness to materialise the advice he receives. To put it simply, the student may tend to say "why not using the drugs" if in case his pocket is fat or faced with a situation which may compromise his awareness on the harmful impacts of drugs.

## **Discussion**

### **1. Family Background**

To state the obvious, family background on the use of drugs is influential in determining students' tendency to get into drug addiction. Thus, students brought up in a family practicing drugs or that shows leniency in stressing the adverse impact of drug-use are highly susceptible for experiencing drugs.

In this context, the practice of drug-use by the family appears to be much more significant in pushing youngsters towards the drug abuse than that of leniency. This is the case whether the drug is used in the household unit or some other place outside family home. In this regard, it is indispensable to underscore that though not in the scale of drug-practice at house hold unit the use of addictive drugs outside family home has its own contribution in acquainting children with the habit of drug-use. Hence, a child with frequent exposure to a some what related emotional mind-setting seen by a family member entering home under the influence of drugs may be led to think that drugs are recreational inputs Foerhaned et. al, (1977) found in their study that drug abusers family was the major contributing factor for this behaviour. The salient features included are absent or weak father, over protective, over indulgent or dominating mother. There was hostility or conflict between parents, who were inconsistent in maintaining standards of behaviour for the children and often set unrealistic goals for them. Male drug abusers were found to have disturbed relationships with one or both parents, and 1/3 of the parents were heavy drinkers. Thus, a combination of satisfactory socialisation process and problems related to self-esteem is the characteristics of serious drug abusers.

The common case illustrating this assertion may be the situation

witnessed in those families where one of the members gets into home drink regularly. In this section, attempt is made to look into the ramifications of family drug-use on the students' attitude towards drug-use based on the manner of the latter's exposure—direct and indirect.

### **1.1 Direct Exposure**

Direct exposure comes into picture when, the family members practice drug-use in the family home in front of children. Here, the practice will have a direct effect in shaping the youngster's mind to view drug-use positively. One of such effects is the unconscious feeling developed by children to long for the drug experience at home due to the stimulation they receive from the drug-tainted atmosphere. The typical case depicting this scenario is the chance of children being passive smokers. The inhaling of the cigarette smoke by children will expose them to the nicotine of the cigarette and makes them passive smokers. Eventually, their regular exposures to the nicotine will gradually leads to emotional and psychological dependency Yet another effect of drug-practice at family home would be the impression it creates on the youngsters mind regarding the importance of drug-use for recreation and/ or social life. In line with this, drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes during holiday occasions by family members persuade students to consider such drug substances as notable recreation inputs. Further more, the practice of

khat-chewing ceremonies by family members and their friends at home will make, the student to belief that khat-chewing is useful leisure time hobby to strengthen social life. Similarly, in the family home the young student may be convinced to chew khat during study time with a belief that it helps for concentration. To conclude, the aforementioned discussion shows that the use of such drugs as tobacco, khat and alcohol plays a pivotal role in deriving students towards drug-abuse either unconsciously or by virtue of appreciating the apparent recreational or social value of the drugs.

### **1.2 Indirect Exposure**

Unlike the previous case, indirect exposure result when a family member practices drug-use outside family home because of various reasons alcoholic drinking is useful to get relief, where a family member rushes to liquor houses i.e., grocers at the time of emotional distress or bad feelings it conveys the message that alcoholic drinking is useful to get relief. By the same token, the relaxed mood and at times sniff the student experiences from a father or elder brother who get into home sipping alcohol at night takes alcoholic drinking as a common type of refreshment after a busy work schedule. Still the other aspect representing indirect exposure may be the involvement of the family in drug selling or catering business. In line with this, while no family members is drug-user the

opportunity the student gets to witness the use of him/her to the world of drug addiction. Needless to say this is a common phenomenon in such family who run drug business as – liquors and khat house. Thus, situation becomes grave when the said business is in the surrounding of family home.

As a summary, we can say that family background in the use of drugs is essential in deciding the students' fate drug addiction for good or bad.

## **2. Curiosity**

For obvious reasons, being curious to try something is a typical behaviour of youth. And since the majority of high school students are teenagers they are not exempt from this natural feeling. One of the experiences where high-school students become curious is shown to be the practice of drug-use. Regardless of the young students' knowledge about the dangers of drug-use, he/she may be inclined towards tasting drugs just out of curiosity. Thus, he/she may decide to take drugs either for proving him/her theoretical knowledge about effects of drugs or driven by the desire to experience the emotional feeling on the other drug-user. From these two push factors however, the need to share the emotional feeling present during drug-use, appears to be the usual phenomena making students curious about drug-use. Yet another reason for students curiosity for drug-use may be the style and charm deployed by the drug-user or the association of modernity and fastness with drug using in most commercial advertisements. To sum, a close look at the causes of students curiosity to use

drugs reveals that it simply, using a variety of drugs are perceived as a quintessential leisure time hobby in modern sophisticated and care free societies. In this equation, the personality of the drug-users and the tantalising message of advertisements plays a pivotal role in fueling students' curiosity. As to personalities movie stars with infectious style and glamour remain to be at forefront to captivate young students to the world of drug abuse. The mesmerising style and look seen from a particular actor while smoking a cigarette or drinking a glass of wine is often the most precious scene attracting young students. Moreover, such drug experience by the movie star is considered by the young viewers as a complement to a well-groomed personality. By the same token, in music video clips episodes of alcohol drinking scenes or songs with lyrics of revelries contribute for youth drug-use. In this context, the pressure from intellectuals' life style is worth noting. Specially, the impact from the life style of those thinkers and scholars in such fields as philosophy, the arts and literature is something of interest to discuss. More often than not, the conventional wisdom is to consider philosophers, painters and novelists as someone who cherishes a simple life were as the center of it is the assumption that using drugs on meditating on spiritual matters and transcend world.

## **3. Khat house**

The term Khat-house refers to the name given for those small shops vending Khat with additional service of catering khat-chewing ceremonies. The ever-growing

numbers of khat-houses in Addis Ababa reflect a pretty good deal of differences in the service they offer to customers. We found such Khat-houses with a fairly comfortable setting for someone who wishes to enjoy a lavish Khat-chewing ceremony. Here a separate room will be reserved for the chewer or chewers with a neat mattresses and best pillows to be used by the customers' in private. The other types of Khat-houses which are rampant across towns are characterised by a less comfortable atmosphere where the customer chews the Khat by merely sitting on a stool or benches sharing with other persons.

Regardless of the aforementioned distinctions observed from khat-houses, they entail the same effect in exacerbating addictive behaviour among youth. In both cases, the additional services of offering cigarettes and Sisha along with soft drinks shows the great potential of khat-houses in contributing to the exposure of the young one's to complementary drugs. As many of these houses are found in the neighborhood of schools, they are a fertile ground for breeding young addicts at alarming rate. Furthermore, the availability of services in khat-houses for a good part of the day and privacy accelerated youth addiction.

#### **4. Video House**

Video houses are the main entertaining centers of the Ethiopian youth with the adverse effect of flourishing addiction. No less, the low sum of the fees charged for the movies – most of which are in the region of two to five Birr is the other contributing factor for students accessibility to the video - house in most major cities and towns especially in

Addis Ababa. The metropolis, video houses are situated in shanty towns offering less comfortable accommodation, with abundant supply of drugs like cigarette and khat. The viewers, mostly teenagers found it an ideal place to Chew Khat and viewing western films full of violence and obscene objects. Such infamous movies and video clips rampant across the cities are by far the most important inputs herding the youth to the need of addiction. Even worse, the fact that the large number of these video houses in the neighbourhood of high schools complain one to be keen on assessing their pivotal role in the prevalence of addiction. No less the fact that the price charged is another contributing factor as it does not affect much the pockets of many youngsters who appear to be more than willing to pay in the order of two to five birr.

The influence of the aforesaid phenomena remains to be profound in the residential area as well as the surrounding of school compound. Most if not all, students will sit chewing Khat as panacea to get rid of their home-sicknesses and above all to be smart in academic performance. Then, the youngsters will invest a great amount of their money to be sent by their family or those who help them in regular intervals.

The interesting point to note here is that the khat-chewing and cigarette smoking behaviour thus started will inevitably lead them to be immersed into alcoholism. The some what four years study time within the high school accompanied by the challenging atmosphere and frequent poor performance in their academic work

ultimately result in the production of a fully addicted man.

As explained above, the study represents one of the paradigms whereby companies of friends maintain a prominent place in producing a young candidate to join the world of addict.

## **2. Upward trend of addiction**

### ***Company of friends***

Peer groups impose a strong influence in shaping the over all behaviour of the youth. Lather (1993) points out that the influence of friends or peer group on the incidence of drug abuse is decidedly very high. Types of individuals with whom a person associates in adolescence and the role models chosen for emulation affect illegal drug behaviour. Though the influence of peer may not be exclusive but it is one of the major components in deciding the drug abuse behaviour. An individual already encountering a weak family system, lack of affection and emotional problems may be more prone to peer pressures.

One of the formidable challenges the young man faces from his groups is the struggle to convince his friends about his stand on addiction. Accordingly, a pretty good deal of young men and women may pay a huge sacrifice in terms of stigma and discrimination from their colleagues due to their firm stand on rejecting drugs. In fact, the temptations continuously pouring the company of drug abuse friends are so multi-faceted that it impairs an exhaustive listing. But to mention a few issue, party making and style appears to be the notable rationales deriving them to join the world of addiction. Among these, the pressure

present at the time of studying is often too big to overcome by the student.

During study time, In this regard, it is not the case that all types of drugs will impress the youngster as instrumental in successful academic performance. At least, among school boys– a well–thought and fully concentrated study is synonymous with chewing khat. For anyone eager to know the where about of many high school students during exam time, he may end up looking them chewing khat in their respective confinement be it in their small study room or the khat-house.

For those high school boys, their perception that studying in group to be a much more useful approach will prompt them to arrange a possibility where by they may share their understanding of the subject matter they are studying with fellow friends. To this end, they will decide to pass a certain period of their study time with their classmates or other students in their study room (tinat bet) or in any favorable place. Here comes the very first episode to let them into an addictive behaviour. In such cases, the group of young men thus gathered for study will agree to have a small bunch of Khat merely for the purpose stimulating them for a good concentration to handle the study. In other occasions, initially reluctant member of the group may join his/her Khat chewing either persuaded by their justification regards the khats stimulating power or after considering the terrific energy the chewers manifest while reading their books.

In due course, the humble beginning of chewing a handful of khat will give way



to a much bigger consumption accompanied by smoking cigarettes. What's more, in the ensuing periods – the young man will find himself unable to read his books and even attend classes (especially in afternoon time) unless he took a handful of khat leaf.

### **3. Down ward trend of addiction**

#### **3.1 Management in to the School Setting**

Effective administration in the management of high school education is instrumental in fighting addiction culture among adolescents. In this regard, the role of teacher and the management organ is crucial. In view of this, the possible roles to be played by the teacher and the high school management are presented as follows.

#### **3.2 Teacher**

On the part of teachers, each and every staff is required to employ all sorts of preventive measures capable of distancing students from addictive behaviours. As such the measures taken should have the effect of ensuring the suppression of youth addiction within the framework of the teaching - learning process. To these end, the notable undertakings by the teacher include:

##### **(a) Teaching Methodology targeting behavioural change.**

This approach, essentially come in to picture while the teacher is imparting the basic concepts of a particular discipline in the classroom setting. Here, it is required from every teacher to make a valid link between the concepts embodied in the course with

over all health and personality make up. So much so, the teacher may utilise the teaching forum to install the basic purpose of learning the ideas of the particular course in exposing the evils of addiction. For instance, the teacher will have opportunity to emphasise the health risks involved in drug addiction while teaching such courses as Biology and Physical Education. By the same token, he/she may raise the awareness of students regarding the disability effect of drug-use with regard to personality while teaching such course as Civics and Education. For effectiveness, the teacher would deliver the underlying concepts through such methods as dialogue, discussion and debate to be conducted among students. Applying such additional teaching methods as offering the course though showing documentary movies and filed trip will have a better consequence.

##### **(b) Private consultation**

Besides the aforementioned approach, private consultation to be made with the teacher and students provide a positive return. In particular, this approach will prove successful rehabilitate those students whose life is being ruined by drug addiction. In case of addressing addiction problems relating to those who have already experienced it. Accordingly a teacher discourages a student using drugs in public or exhibiting bizarre behaviour from the effect of drug-use. The private consultation with the student will have useful result for himself as well

as other. This is so, because the confidentiality he/she enjoys will make him/her understand the ill-consequences of drug greatly.

**(c) *The Maintenance of responsible personality and good ethical conduct***

Need less to say, the maintenance of responsible personality and good ethical conduct serves as a powerful tool in the struggle against adolescence addiction. Understandably, the most common traits observed from teacher with drug addiction have adverse impact in the future. Hence, the manifest recklessness often seen in the overall personality and inter-personal relation of the addict teacher will leave a dangerous impression on the youngsters mind taking the situation as something normal. Consequently, the defects seen on the addict-teacher's personality like dressing style, emotional stand will lead students to consider as an icon. Sadly, those who follow his/her style will end-up in developing defective personality with a profound effect of undermining the teaching profession as something worthless. Conversely, when a teacher is free from drug-addiction he is taken as role model.

**(d) *Avoiding intimacy with students while experiencing drugs.***

At times when the teachers reveal a compulsive desire towards the use of drugs, he/she must do it in private. In line with this, the teacher must refrain from sharing his drug exposure with students or

experiencing it within the premises of school compound. At this juncture, it is necessary to recall that-sharing of drug-use ceremonies like- khat chewing and alcohol with students to be the most irresponsible act. Thus, it remains a fundamental duty not to share drug-use with their students as a sign of friendliness and intimacy.

**3.3 *The school management***

More than any party, the school management bears a special responsibility to avert the prevalence of addiction culture among high school students. The salient points need to be considered here includes:

- (a) Code of conduct for students apart from the general awareness campaign that may be launched by the school management, issuance of rules and regulations is essential to forestall the threat of drug addiction. Here, the particular rule and regulations dealing with drug abuse shall be consolidated in one issue and be accessible to the student. At this juncture, it is indispensable to stress the need for participating students and parents in the preparation of the ethical code to have successful return. While punitive measures are necessary to deter would be addict students from drug-use and further drug abuse the main purpose of the code of conduct must be rehabilitation and correction. Having regard to the circumstances of the case, it is advisable to present the measures that ought to be taken ranging from written warning to dismissal.

- (b) Avoiding addiction friendly atmosphere in and around the school: First of all, the management must ensure that addictive drugs like alcohol and tobacco are not available in student lounges and other refreshment areas of student within the premises of the school. In the same way, the management should exert most effort to clear the surroundings of school premises from business offering addictive drugs. In this regard, given the prevalent khat vending shops in the surroundings of most high school, the management is expected to act consistently to tackle the problem. It will be fruitful if the management makes the programs in collaboration with concerned organ.
- (c) Encouraging students to involve in extra curricular affairs is the other possible issue to fight drug addiction by creating conducive atmosphere for the students. Such scheme may be undertaken through organising student with various clubs like Anti Drug Clubs and Anti AIDS clubs. The other alternative is prompting student participation in community services like helping addicts within the society through awareness campaign and other systems.

### **3.4 Bad treatments**

The student receive from his/her closemates e.g. Parents, teachers and classmates is often shown to be one of the major causes of bad treatment in subjecting the young student to feel sense of worthlessness and takes a defeatist attitude. This in return, will pave the way for the students search to

a sort of sanctuary where he/she feels safe from the organising psychological pain resulting from others offensive approach. Accordingly, in a pretty good deal of instances, high school students suffering solitary life or guilty consciousness by virtue of bad treatment and drug addiction.

#### *3.4.1 Hostile family*

The family life is crucial forum where the high school students learn the art of leaving. Thus, the approach he gets from members of the family parents, brothers and sisters will decide his overall perception of his life and how to handle it. So much so that, if the student receives low level of parental affection or that the care and attention he/she gets from his/her loved ones –especially mother and father then, this will let him to develop inferiority complex. To sum, the mentioned cases of hostile family atmosphere are manifestation of bad treatment against the high school students. To escape the problem of identity crises and mental stress brought about by the bad treatment the high school students will restore to drug-use. The relative calmness and sense of fulfillment he/she enjoys from consuming drugs like: khat, cigarette, alcohol persuade him/her to experience these addictive substances as the need arise. Nonetheless, the short-lived nature of the emotional serenity (calm and quite) from the drugs use will force him/her to return back to the painful status. Ultimately the relapse of full fledged addiction to continual use of

drugs culminating in the uncomfortable emotional setting gave way to continual use of drugs culminating in full fledged addiction.

#### 3.4.2 School

At the school, he/she faces bad treatment from teachers and his class mates. On the part of his/her class mates, the usual ways manifesting bad treatment are the disdain and stigma they may face from their classmates. On the other hand bad treatments from the teacher get expression when the teacher launches fierce criticism on the student for the latter's frequent-ill-performance in his/her academic undertaking. Furthermore, a not so friendly remark of the teacher regarding the students' loneliness or other unusual behaviour before his/her class mates could be taken as a source of bad treatment.

The aforementioned ones and other cases of bad treatment from the school commentary often serve as a catalyst to push the high school student into drug abuse.

#### 4. Liquor House

The prevalence of liquor house and/or night clubs in the surroundings of high school compounds as well as the residential locality of youngster's increases the probability of drug abuse among the youth community. The liquor house offering alcoholic beverages may vary in terms of the alcoholic drink available for sale as well as the extent of luxury they provide for the clients. Accordingly, the liquor house range from house hold units, serving such

traditional drink as tella and katicala (locally prepared alcoholic drink from cereals) to beer grocers and lavish night clubs offering local and imported alcoholic drinks. However, all the liquor house entail identical effect in that they end-up in accustoming students with the experience of alcohol consumption. This in turn paves the way for exposure to use other drugs as cigarette and other hard drugs.

In the context of youth drug addiction, while the decision to experiment alcoholic drinks remains to be principally dependent on the interest of the individual concerned, the role of liquor house can not be underestimated. The prevalence of liquor houses in the surroundings of the youngster's residential locality or school is easily accessible to utilise alcoholic drinks. In most cases such will be the case in relation to those local drinks prepared at house hold level. The fact that many of the youngster's opportunity to get such local drinks as tella, teje, and katikala while living with parented home easily pushes them to visit liquor house when the opportunity to get the drinks at home is absent. Furthermore, this acquaintance with the experience of the alcoholic drinks at home in frequent holiday occasion will lead them to consider drinking the liquor to be something normal and a typical leisure time habit. Thus, when ever the young man is sure that he has some money in pocket he will be entitled to visit the local liquor houses. It is important to consider that the relatively cheap price of the liquors to be another contributing factor driving the youth to liquor house.

The other occasion where a student become vulnerable to the trend of alcoholism is the peer influence they may face to visit liquor house. In this case the young man's exposure to make his study together with his class mates or colleagues present's a favourable atmosphere to use alcoholic drinks. Thus, when youngster's gather together to study their education there emerge a variety of ideas sought to be effective for well-thought study. Among these, the option to study by chewing khat in group. The majority of cases get the approval of many of the students studying there. What's more, at the end of the study session many propose to sip couple of glasses of alcoholic drinks to get relaxation from the light mind setting . Interesting enough, the lack of having enough money and the fear of societal condemnation will lead the students' to bring a few glasses or bottles of alcoholic drink from the nearby liquor store and enjoy together at the very place they have been studying. In this way they will find themselves protected from going to far away places and relax with an alcoholic drink with minimum cost and without suffering public condemnation. To conclude the prevalence of low-piece traditional liquors in the near by places provides a significant contribution to expose students who opt to enjoy the liquor in group and privately.

The third type of possibility where the near by liquor house attract student for drug experience. In case of party making there, the notable candidates appears to be high school students. Thus frequently it has been observed that most of students decide to make get-together in night clubs or other liquor houses especially when

they finish their studies at the end of the semester or after taking exams, accordingly in order to return back to there learning place on time, they opt to go to near by night clubs or liquor house and enjoy the night there, they feel a tremendous sense of joy and freedom allowing them to taste other type of drugs like cigarettes and other hard drugs in particular the rare opportunity to enjoy with other fellow students result in the ample possibility of sharing each other's experience to use other drugs in the greatest freedom possible like tobacco.

In short, as explained in the aforementioned point, the prevalence of liquors houses in the surroundings of the youngster's dwelling place or his school compound creates conducive atmosphere to acquaint him with alcoholic drinks and tobacco. Even worse it will give him the frequent opportunity to visit the liquors houses freely either in private or in group when he feels bored or depressed. The ultimate effect will be familiarising the young man with astonishing array of alcoholic drinks and ample opportunity to abuse and misuse other drugs like cigarettes.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

It goes without saying that drug abuse represents one of the formidable challenges facing about all societies in the world. Interestingly enough, the ill-effects brought about by drug abuse are largely felt through the alarming rate of the youth generations increasing trend of easily failing prey to the dangers arising there from. The very biological make-up swift emotional response observed from the youth community in general is by far most significant factor

contributing for frequent suitability of youngsters to drug-use.

In this sense the substance constituting drugs are composed of those psychoactive substances such as Maruana, Heroin and barbiturates substances as tobacco and alcohol. Nonetheless, in majority cases the reality shows that the society's general attitude to consider those psychoactive substances as heroin and Maruana as drugs disregarding tobacco and alcohol in terms of altering body function and behaviours is a matter of common knowledge among the public frequent utility of the substances. In fact despite their bad effects alcohol and tobacco are generally considered to pose less of drug related problems like that of the hard drugs such as Heroin, Maruana. For example most of the clinical studies conducted so far do not include alcohol as part of the drug problem. With regard to the concept of the term 'addict' and addiction we still face with a fairly good deal of division as to this constituent elements most of the scholarly works undertakes in the meaning of addict as a person who habitually uses habit forming drug which is detrimental to the individual in such a way that it endangers public moral, health, safety or welfare. Further more an addict is characterised by a behavioural make up with over pressing need or compulsion to continue taking the drug as a way of coping with his problems. On the other hand addiction is understood to be a state of periodic or chronic intoxication with drugs through repeated consumption.

An abiding theme in this study is examining the main factors for abuse of drugs among preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. To this end a study is made on the experience of students in 8 preparatory and high schools of Addis Ababa in relation to drugs (alcohol, tobacco and khat) as the findings of the study shows, currently drug abuse is prevalent among preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa.

- The study reveals that these three drugs (alcohol, tobacco and khat) to be mutually interdependent in deriving the youth to plunge in the culture of drug addicts.
- Multiple drugs used by preparatory and high school students in Addis Ababa are alcohol, tobacco and khat. On the other hand, the result has shown that the aggregate number of male drug abusers is higher than that of the female ones. The numerical dominance of the male student abuser is reflected both in the use of single and multiple drugs. Nonetheless, the figures representing abusers of a particular drug depicts a different picture where female out number in a certain drug substance while the male ones excel by others. Accordingly female students were found out to be the biggest abusers of alcohol while their male counterpart represent the higher percentage in the abuse of the other two drugs i.e., tobacco and khat.
- Company of friends, curiosity, bad treatment and longing for pleasure to be push factors representing upward trend of drug-use. While, better school

management, high cost of drugs and awareness as pull factors with a downward impact. Yet, family background and prior knowledge also the impact of drugs were known to be contributing factors in shaping students attitude toward drug.

Below are the details of the findings pertaining to the impact of the prevalence and the etiology prevailing drug abuse in the students.

- Better school management was proved to be the major factor behind a slow rate of drug abuse among both male and female students followed by high cost of drugs and awareness. Furthermore, the percentage attributable for awareness as the least figure by far shows the limited impact of acquaintance over the pros and cons of drug-use to reduce culture of drug abuse unless backed by other factor. The percentage composition in both categories also revealed the pivotal role of better school management in reducing drug culture excelling the figures pertaining to the other two stems with a double digit. Nonetheless, the percentage for high cost of drugs and awareness in both male background and female categories remain to be slightly different. Accordingly, the disparities of the figures among the respective categories were found to be minimal differing only with a mere fractional value.
- The data proves that the degree of drug abuse is noticeably high among older age groups. This in turn, shows that older age groups in the high school student community are more prone to drug related socio-economic and health hazards.
- Furthermore, the percentage distribution on the use of a particular drug-substance varies within the opposite sexes. In view of this, the data reveals that females being the largest numbers of alcohol users while the male ones out numbers in the other two drug substances i.e., khat and tobacco.
- As to the male ones, seeking for pleasurable experience, company of friends and family experience are cited as the main reasons to the influence of family background and peer group influence.
- The data proves that the prevalence of drug-abuse among high school students has reached a worrying level. On top of this, it also indicates that the level of students drug-abuse is widening its scope due to multiple drug-use
- In particular, the history of drug-use and approaches of child rearing within the family are influential in shaping the perception of students towards drug abuse. To this end, the respondents in both male and female categories have mentioned that all the three cases i.e., family members' drug-use, lack of affection and lack of control help increase the prevalence of student drug abuse.
- The percentages relating to the items 'positive impact' and 'no impact' lags behind that of 'negative impact' by a double digit figure. This marked difference is an irrefutable proves that video houses play a remarkably

negative role in the fight against student drug abuse culture. Parallel to this, the huge gap between the percentage of male and female respondents as regards to 'negative impact' is an indicative of influencing male students to drug abuse. The reasons for this trend are as numerous and complex as the problems themselves.

- The wide availability of such additional drugs and the frequent use of these drugs by other Khat chewers in the khat-house will make the young man vulnerable to chronic habit of multiple drug-use.
- Exposures of high school students to liquor houses highly increase the risk of joining drug abuse culture among young high schools/preparatory students.
- Though, the figures attributed for male and female respondents reveal noticeable gap, the data proves that the number of subjects having no prior knowledge on effects of drugs is far more than those having prior knowledge.
- The factors affecting the etiology of drugs among high school/preparatory student community were diverse reason in this regard company of friends, curiosity, bad treatment and pleasure stands for upward trends.
- The high percentage of response accorded to "better school management" for more than that relating to the other items is a clear sign that a strict regulatory framework at the school setting result in a huge deterrent effect no matter how conducive the atmosphere for drug abuse.
- Students brought-up in a family practicing drug or that shows leniency in stressing the adverse impact of drug-use are highly susceptible for experiencing drugs.

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